

when they went around it, over it, or through it, whatever they did, that would tell us that is a location where we need to beef it up.

And I would pull back 60 feet. I would put this footing in, and I would drop this concrete fence, and they will have demonstrated that we need it because they have violated the one that was the lighter fence that they didn't respect.

And so, we have this concrete wall. It is about 6 inches thick. It ends up 12 feet high, 10-foot-wide panels, one after another. And our little construction company could toss together about a mile a day of this once we got going. Now, we won't be bidding any project like this, but we have the capability of doing it is my point.

And certainly there would be a little bit of engineering design that would be touched up on it. But this is basically the design that I believe we would be ending up with. It costs about \$1.3 million a mile.

Now we are spending \$8 billion on our southern border, \$8 billion. That is \$4 million a mile every year, and we are paying Border Patrol people to drive back and forth on HUMVEES, to park and look at it and be a deterrent just for being there, and we are paying all the administration that it takes to support the people and, of course, their weapons and all the technology.

And I am for supporting this wall with additional technology. And it is okay with me if they want to fly drones around and let us know when people are approaching the wall. But I will tell you, they will find that this wall doesn't let them cross it.

And people will say, well, if you build a 12-foot wall, I will show you a 12-foot ladder. And that might happen, Madam Speaker. So I have a little bit of a solution for that. And that solution consists of, this is actually a little piece of solder, but just a little nice little concertina wire to put on top of this wall as a deterrent. Easily installed. And you can see that it can provide that deterrent effect.

Now, I also submit that we run a little current through this wire, and that provides also as a deterrent. Now it is up there where you would have to have a ladder to get your hands on it. But that will keep people from putting a ladder up against it. And then we will have our borders respected and protected.

And if we fail to do this, Madam Speaker, we are going to continue to see 11,000 people a day, one every 8 seconds, \$65 billion worth of illegal drugs pouring across this border.

Whenever we built the fence in San Diego they went around the fence. And each time that you do that they will go around it because the money is too great, \$65 billion. We have got to shut it off. And we will build this thing where they don't respect a more modest barrier, and continue to build until such time as all traffic goes through the ports of entry. And that means

legal and illegal, through the ports of entry. And then we will beef up our people there. We beef up our technology there.

And if we do that we can then finally say we have control of this border. And if we enforce there, if we end birthright citizenship, and if we enforce employer sanctions, those three things will solve this issue.

And I would ask the President commit to enforcing our immigration laws, commit to controlling the border, spend the next years of your administration establishing that. And when that is done, while the next President is campaigning for the 2008 election to be sworn into office here in 2009, that campaign can be about whether or not we need guest workers in this country and how many we might need and of what skills they might come from.

But we cannot build a guest worker plan on a false foundation, a foundation of the promise of enforcement. And the only way we can ever know that we have enforcement is to actually enforce, prove it can be done. If we prove it can be done, then we will have something solid to build this guest worker plan on. But without that, we are building a guest worker plan on hypotheticals. The hypothetical will be that we will enforce the law. That has not happened. It has diminished over the last 20 years. An employer under Bill Clinton was 19 times more likely to be sanctioned for hiring illegals than under our current President. And so I am asking, let's enforce the law. Let's demonstrate that we can do it. Let's put fixtures on the border, because this \$1.3 million per mile is a one-time investment that will free up other people.

As I asked in the testimony down in Laredo of the sector chief for the Border Patrol there, I said, if you have a wall like this, does it take more or less border patrol officers to protect that border? And his answer, even though it isn't the administration's position to support this, was it takes less border patrol officers to enforce this wall.

So, Madam Speaker, that is my encouragement for the President. That is my encouragement for our Commander in Chief. That is my encouragement for the American people. Stand up and support our military in the Middle East and defend this country, and we will continue to be a great Nation.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to address the House. And we would like to also thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us to have the time.

As you know, the 30-something Working Group, we come to the floor

daily to share not only with the Members of the House, but also the American people, about plans we have that is in holding or in waiting, not because of the fact that we are not willing to move forth on behalf of the American people, it is because the Republican majority has decided not to govern on the side of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is very, very hard core for everyday Americans, because they are in waiting, not only in the area of minimum wage, but also affordable fuel prices and real solutions as relates to protecting our country and also making sure that our veterans who have allowed us to serve, who have allowed us to salute one flag, will be honored in the area of health care and other areas that we have promised them.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to start off my comments, and I am glad Mr. DELAHUNT is here, and I know others are on their way to the floor, to at least talk about this minimum wage conversation that we are having here on the floor of the House of Representatives. I feel that we should take action. We want to take action on this side of the aisle, Democrats united in making sure that some 6 million-plus Americans are able to get a pay increase, something that Members of Congress have enjoyed over a number of years, but everyday working Americans are not able to receive more minimum wage than what they are receiving right now. They are, right now, making \$5 and some change. And I mean, it is unconscionable, Mr. Speaker, for Members of the House to be able to walk away with an increase, cost-of-living increase; meanwhile, those individuals that are punching in and punching out every day, are still making the same rate that they were making in 1997. It would be an uproar here in this House if Members of Congress had not received a pay raise since 1997.

One thing that I can say here on this side of the aisle, the Democratic leadership and the Democratic Caucus has said we will not stand for an increase for Members of Congress to make more money if we are not going to raise the level of minimum wage for everyday Americans.

And so, again, Mr. Speaker, we come with third-party validators. We come with the facts to share with the American people, and we come to let the American people know, and Members on the majority side, that we have the will and the desire to lead, and we will if we have the opportunity after November.

I just wanted to share a few things because there are a lot of folks that are out there saying that they are fighting on behalf of the everyday American. So I thought I would just bring a couple of visual aids, and also some information. This is the source of the College Board 2005 as it relates to the census and what Americans are dealing with.

I want to start with this next chart here. I want to start with this chart.

Minimum wage. And this is real economic change under Bush. Here you have the minimum wage, Mr. Speaker, that is at zero starting in 1997 to now. Since 1997 to now, whole milk has gone up 24 percent. Bread has gone up 25 percent. A 4-year public college education has gone up 77 percent. Health care insurance has gone up 97 percent. Meanwhile, Americans are still making \$5 and change. Regular gas has gone up 136 percent, Mr. Speaker. Still no message from the Republican majority for everyday working Americans that punch in and punch out every day.

□ 2310

Here are some other statistics: still from 1997, no increase in the minimum wage for everyday working Americans. College tuition has gone up in private institutions 40 percent. Gas prices, again, as it relates to the middle class, has gone up 47 percent and 55 percent for prescription drugs. I think it is important that we look at those.

To go further, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we share this. The facts are hard, but they are true. In 1998 a Member of Congress received a raise of \$3,100. That was in 1998. In 1998 the minimum wage was zero. Again, in 2000 Members of Congress received a \$4,600 raise. That is more money. Everyday working Americans in 2000, minimum wage, zero, thanks to the Republican majority.

I just said in 2000, Mr. DELAHUNT, Members received a pretty substantial raise. In 2001 Members of Congress received a \$3,800 raise. Of course, we are not minimum-wage workers. The American people in 2001, zero. Nothing. The Republican majority said they are not going to have it. In 2002, again a \$4,900, that is a lot of money, increase for Members of Congress. The American people in 2002, zero.

It pays to have a voting card in Congress. You can give yourself a raise, but the folks that elect you just have to suck it up.

Now, this is like on a roll here in Congress. In 2003, a \$4,700 increase in Members of Congress' pay. The American people, guess what, zero. Nothing at all, thanks to the Republican majority. In 2004, a \$3,400 raise for Members of Congress. Guess what, Members, American people, minimum wage raises, zero.

These are the facts. I challenge any Member on the Republican side, the majority, to come down and challenge me on these facts.

In 2005 it continues, a \$4,000 raise. Once again, you are a Member of Congress that comes up here, who say they are representing you, it is a wonderful thing. Get a raise in 2005, \$4,000. The American people, zero, Mr. Speaker.

In 2006 Members of Congress' proposed raise, \$3,100, Mr. DELAHUNT. My 9-year-old son and my 11-year-old daughter can guess, the American people to this date, Mr. Speaker, zero.

Now, I want to go back to this chart because I think it is very revealing and

very accurate: "I have been in this business for 25 years, and I never voted for an increase in the minimum wage and I am opposed to it, and I think that a vast majority of our conference is opposed to it." That is the leader of the Republican Congress. That is the majority leader.

Now, Mr. DELAHUNT, there are Members that come to this floor and say the Democrats are just demagoguing. There are people who come to this floor and say we are for you; they are not for leading.

I think it is important, Mr. DELAHUNT, that we come to the floor and share with the American people and the Members of Congress that we will not rest even though we are in the minority, that we are still willing to fight for them.

Now, the difference between the Republican majority and the Democratic minority, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the majority has the power to be able to make things happen here in this House on behalf of the American people as it relates to the minimum wage, and it is fair play. I went through this list. Pay increases year after year, \$4,000 here, \$4,700 there, \$3,100 here, and zero since 1997 on behalf of the American people who punch in and punch out every day.

Meanwhile, health care cost is up. Meanwhile, the cost of bread and milk is up. Meanwhile, gas prices are up by 136 percent. But back at the ranch and here in this House, the Members of Congress are being taken care of. The special interests are being taken care of. But guess what, the individuals who woke up early on a Tuesday morning for representation are being left behind since 1997, and there are Members on the majority side saying over their dead bodies, literally, will they receive an increase because they are so indebted, Mr. DELAHUNT, to their special interests.

So all we can fight with, Mr. Speaker, here is the fact, not fiction but fact, that we have a Republican majority that is willing to govern for the few, for those individuals who have the opportunity to come to Washington and to be able to gain access through the K Street Project and other programs that allow them to give politically and have gangs here in the House.

A former Member of this House used to boast about the fact that if they were not on the list of contributors, they couldn't come in and see them. That is a former Member of the House, and if anybody wants to challenge me on it from the majority side, I will be happy to reveal that former Member's name. I think we all know, and it was an active program in the House, and I believe there are still some elements of that program now. The fact that special interests do not want an individual making \$5 and some change to receive a couple dollars' increase is very unfortunate. And, Mr. DELAHUNT, I am very concerned about that.

Let me just take 3 more minutes, Mr. DELAHUNT, and then I am going to

yield to you because you have some very interesting charts over there.

Let us talk about who is getting what. In the past you have heard me read this, and I want to read it again because, when it comes down to when their constituents want to know whose side they are on, I want the Members to be armed with the facts.

I am proud that I am trying to do everything I can do on behalf of my constituents back in the 17th Congressional District in Dade and Broward County. But by their sending me to Congress and Mr. DELAHUNT to Congress, they federalized us to represent the people of the United States of America, and I think it is our obligation, Mr. Speaker, to share the facts.

Members can follow me. They can go on Washingtonpost.com. This was an article November 16, 2005, on the front page: "A White House document shows that executives from big oil companies met with Vice President DICK CHENEY's energy task force in 2001, something long suspected by environmentalists but denied as recently as" a week ago "by industry officials testifying before Congress. The document, obtained this week by The Washington Post, shows that officials from the ExxonMobil Corporation, Phillips, Shell Oil Company, and BP America Inc. met in the White House complex with the Cheney aids who were developing national energy policy, parts of which became law and parts of which are still being debated" here in the House.

This is an article. It is not from the Democratic Caucus. It is not from my office or Mr. DELAHUNT's office.

Let us see what happened. That meeting, Mr. DELAHUNT and Members, was in 2001. Here are the profit margins of big oil companies since that meeting: in 2002 I think that was a pretty good meeting to go to, \$34 billion in profits, thanks to the Republican majority's passing policy that would allow oil companies to spend the taxpayers' dollars and to be able to have subsidies and make these profits. In 2003 \$59 billion in profits. I think that meeting was worth going to and whoever recommended and got them into the White House complex to meet with the Cheney aides, I think they got a promotion and possibly a bonus.

□ 2320

In 2004, \$84 billion oil profits up. Guess who is paying for it? The American people. In 2005, \$113 billion in profits. And the numbers are not even in from 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I know that these facts have to have some Members who may be in their offices right now or sitting up in their beds feel uncomfortable. But, unfortunately, that is not happening, because it continues.

Why is this man smiling here? It is nothing against him. I don't have anything personally against oil companies. They are getting what the majority Republican Conference here in this House has allowed them to have. It is

one thing for someone to say "I will support you and your political endeavors." It is another thing for you to say "I am with you all the way, even if it costs my constituents more at the pump."

Here is a man that a lot of workers wish they had such a deal. A \$398 million retirement package and a \$2 million tax break ala the Republican majority. An Exxon former executive.

It is almost, Mr. Speaker, unfair. Someone may say that. If I didn't have the third-party validators, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and votes by the majority to back up what I am saying, some folks would say that is unfair. I wouldn't even be able to walk the halls of Congress or talk to my colleagues on the Republican side if I wasn't telling the truth.

I think it is important that everyone understands, if you are a Republican, you have to have a problem with what I just presented. You have to. If you are a Democrat, you have to have a problem, the information I am sharing with you that the Republican majority is allowing to happen.

We on this side have called for an increase in the minimum wage. We on this side have called for tough legislation on price gouging. We on this side have talked about making ourselves energy independent; not investing in the Middle East, but investing in the Midwest as it relates to E-85.

So I think it is important that everyone understands when we are in the majority, if the American people see fit, we will put forth policy that will benefit all Americans. I think it is important.

If you are an independent, you have to have a problem with the fact that Members of Congress have received thousands upon thousands of dollars of raises since 1997, and still no response from the Republican majority as it relates to the minimum wage.

Mr. DELAHUNT, those are the facts for now. This book is full of facts. These books are full of action; balancing the budget, real homeland security, where local communities don't have to tax themselves because we have done away with the COPS Program. We made it difficult for local communities to be able to apply for homeland security, home front security, because, guess what, when something goes down in a city, be it small or big, it won't be the Department of Homeland Security showing up, it will be a local police department.

This is my last one here, and it is a real plan, ready to go, Mr. Speaker, on energy. Anyone can go on House Democrats.gov and get all of these plans. They just didn't come up tonight. We have been coming to this floor, and now the American people are going to have an opportunity to be not Democrats, not Republicans, not independents, but voting on behalf of this country, and to make sure that we have representation here in this House.

Mr. DELAHUNT?

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. MEEK, I want to commend you on that eloquent exposition of the issues that I know resonate with the American people. Could you do me a favor? Could you hold up that last book once more?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Which one?

Mr. DELAHUNT. The last one. Hold it up, will you.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The energy plan. Yes, sir.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Just show it. I hope that those that are watching can see the cover. Except I would expand on the title, "Energy Plan." I would add a dash, and I would add the words "A Blueprint to Win the War Against Terrorism," because therein, in that plan, lies the secret, and it shouldn't be a secret, because I think it is obvious to many of us, that if we can adopt an energy plan, no longer will we find ourselves hostage to governments and societies that disagree with our values. And that is the case now.

Six years into this administration, and gas has gone from \$1.40 a gallon at the pump to now it is over \$3. The Middle East is destabilizing.

But the reality is, and we spoke about this, myself and some other colleagues earlier, today we are losing the war on terror. At least that is the opinion of people, including the American people, in 34 countries out of 35 where a poll commissioned by the BBC was taken. Just recently, a bipartisan group of experts in foreign policy and national security concluded that we are losing the war on terror.

Now, in the previous hour my good friend from Iowa made the observation, why should we care whether people like us or not? Why should we care? Because, again, if you take a look other polls, and not just, by the way, in the Middle East, but on every continent, the image of the United States is poor. We are reviled. As the GAO said, anti-American sentiment is broadening and deepening. Yet my friend from Iowa says, why should we care?

I think what he meant is why should we care about those who are sympathetic to or are active participants in acts of terror against the United States, and that makes sense.

But we should care, Mr. Speaker. We should care about the rest of the world, because if we are going to have success in the war on terror, we need other people to help us. We cannot do it alone.

If I can just cite one example, Mr. MEEK, in a story just last week in the Washington Times, Secretary Rumsfeld was in Tajikistan, a Central Asian country, and while he was there he expressed concern about what is transpiring in Afghanistan. This is what he had to say, if I can just ask for your indulgence for a minute. I have to put my glasses on, Mr. MEEK. You know I have a birthday coming up.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. It is tomorrow, Mr. DELAHUNT.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I didn't want the world to know that, but you let that secret out.

The story reads, "U.S. forces invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 to oust the radical Taliban regime. Although the country now has a democratically-elected government, the Taliban has been making a comeback."

Now to quote the Secretary. This is Mr. Rumsfeld. "Western Europe ought to have an enormous interest in the success of Afghanistan, and it is going to take a lot more effort on their part for the Karzai government to be successful." He was alluding to the President of Afghanistan, Mr. Karzai.

□ 2330

But what he is saying is Western Europe has got to help us more. So what we are looking for is help from Western Europe to contribute troops, to contribute resources so that that fragile democracy in Afghanistan can survive.

So I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is important what the British people think of the United States. Now, again, if you would bear with me, let me go to an article, Mr. Speaker, that appears in the New York Times dated July 3. Now, let's be really clear. This is not Pakistan, this is not Tajikistan, this is not Mexico, this is not Venezuela, this is not President Putin's Russia, this is the United Kingdom, with whom it is written we have a special relationship, Mr. Speaker.

Where we have had a relationship between our peoples that is extraordinary for decades. Now, according to this poll, it was asked whether the United States is doing a bad job in Iraq, is indifferent to what the rest of the world thinks of it, and whether it is obsessed with money.

Now, according to the pollster, in an analysis by him, this was one of the prominent British papers that commissioned the poll, it indicated that there has never been a time when America was held in such low esteem on this side of the Atlantic.

The special relationship that British leaders have long believed exists between their country and the United States may still live in Downing Street and at Camp David, but it has atrophied among the British public.

Among the responders in the new poll, Mr. MEEK, 77 percent did not see America as a beacon of hope for the world. Asked to rate President Bush as a leader, more than three-quarters described him as either pretty poor or terrible. Seventy-two percent said his foreign policy, instead of being driven by a desire to build democracy, was merely a cover for American interests.

About two-thirds of responders said that they believed that American troops were doing a bad job in trying to win the hearts and minds in Iraq. Eighty-three percent of responders said the United States does not care what the rest of the world thinks.

We should care. To answer the question that was put forth by my friend and our colleague from Iowa, the reason that we have to care is because we live in a world. If we are going to

achieve our goals, we have to do them in a multi-lateral way. We need the British people to support us. We need the Irish people, we need people all over this world. We want to reach out and be that beacon of hope.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, you know it would be nice if the American people supported this administration. It would be nice if the administration had a policy that the American people could support, or that in spite of the incredible lack of support for the American people, it would be nice if the administration actually showed that that mattered to them, instead of continuing down the path of "staying the course" and doing exactly as they think is right and to heck with what anyone else in America thinks.

I mean, of course we care about our place in the world, and about the vision that we are viewed through, the lens we are viewed through. But I do not understand why the administration and why this President and this Republican leadership, our colleagues, do not seem to care or understand how the American people are viewing them.

I mean, there are a number of issues I know you have gone over tonight, the minimum wage is one of them. I have been witnessing the hearings that have been taking place around the country on border security and the argument over whether border security or an earned path to citizenship is more important.

And what I think has been extremely humorous is that the Republicans on the other side, the Members on the other side of the aisle, in the other body, adhering to the rules, Mr. Speaker, have taken to calling the McCain-Hagel, I think there is another Republican that is part of that legislation. It is two or three Republicans that are heading it up. And MARTINEZ, our own Senator from Florida.

But MCCAIN, and HAGEL and MARTINEZ are heading up that legislation. Yet now they seem to be calling it, or attempting to call it the Reid-Kennedy bill or the Reid-Kennedy bill, neither of whom are sponsors of that legislation.

So what they are trying to do is lead the American people, and if they say it enough times so that they believe it, that it is the Democrats that are taking the initiative on this immigration policy when it is clearly Republicans.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Are you aware, and again I know we are changing subjects here, but I do not know if you are aware that there has been a decline in the number of enforcement actions against employers for hiring undocumented workers.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Not only am I aware of that, Mr. DELAHUNT, thank you for leading me right into that lovely chart that we have here, that graphically depicts the differences between border security and immigration under a Democratic administration versus border security under this Republican Bush administration.

Let us peruse the numbers. The Republicans have been talking a good game about how important border security truly is to them, especially our colleagues here in the House. They have been beating that drum over and over again.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I can interrupt just once more. Of course you are aware that the Republicans have been in the majority in this chamber for 12 years.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Well, I am quite aware of that, they have been well within control of this institution for 12 years.

Mr. DELAHUNT. They have controlled the White House.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. For 6 years.

Mr. DELAHUNT. They have controlled the United States Senate I think for 10 out of 12 years.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. So this was entirely theirs.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I think it is important that people understand that and understand who is Washington, D.C.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Entirely within their control to crack down on border security, to hire more Border Patrol agents, enforcement actions against employers who hire illegal immigrants illegally.

So let's take a look at the numbers. We use third party validators. By the way, it is a pleasure to join you here once again, my 30 Something colleagues. I apologize for not doing that initially when I began, just jumping in.

But let us look at the average number of new border patrol agents added per year under the Clinton administration from 1993 to 2000, versus the Bush administration between 2001 and 2005. Under President Clinton, 642 per year border patrol agents were added per year. And under President Bush they have added an average of 411.

Now there is some real commitment to border security. How about we look at the INS, which is now CIS. But the INS fines for immigration enforcement, that is fines against employers who hired illegal immigrants illegally and have gotten caught.

Okay. Under the Democratic administration in 1999, President Clinton was in office, there were 417 cases where INS fined employers for hiring, for getting caught hiring illegal immigrants. Guess how many there were in 2004, a year in which President Bush was in office?

□ 2340

Mr. DELAHUNT. That was the year that some started to express concern about border enforcement.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Yes. That is when you started to hear the drum beginning to beat, and beat very loudly.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Can you tell us what that number is, as compared to the 417 under President Clinton?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I would be glad to. We went from 417 im-

migration enforcement actions against employers under President Clinton to 3. Three under President Bush in 2004.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Three, one, two, three.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. If I tried to count to 417, the hour would end, and we wouldn't be able to say anything else. So I will move on to the next one.

How about when we are talking about immigration fraud cases? If the Republicans are so committed to border security and making sure that we crack down on illegal immigrants and prevent the people who don't belong here and who are coming here the wrong way, then you would think that there would be many, many more cases under the Republicans than the Democrats. But in 1995, a year in which we had a Democratic President, there were 6,455 cases pursued against immigration fraud.

Then you fast-forward to 2003 under the Bush administration, the Republican administration, a year in which supposedly you had an entirely Republican-controlled government, and the ability for them to actually pursue more than 6,455 cases. They pursued 1,389, a 78 percent drop.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Could I just submit a hypothesis for a minute?

You know, one of the leaders in the neoconservative movement, a Mr. Grover Norquist, coined an interesting term called shrinking government, until it practically disappears. This neoconservative ideology, I suggest, is responsible for those statistics. Because what we have done in the past 6, 8 years, is reduced government to the point when no longer are we adequately enforcing our laws as well as our border.

So what we see is a real problem that was created by this Republican majority working with a Republican President.

Did you have a chance, by any stretch, to reading the lament of the former Speaker of this House, Mr. Gingrich?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I did, actually. I think we also have a graphic depiction of that. But really what this comes down to, Mr. DELAHUNT, is a clear indication of who is for immigration enforcement and border security, and who is just kidding; who is in favor of putting action behind the words, and who just speaks the words.

There is one more statistic that was more difficult to graphically depict, so I will go through this last one, which is also important, because the Bush administration has touted that in its first 5 years, it caught and returned 6 million undocumented individuals. That is actually a drop in any 5-year period under the Clinton administration.

So, you know, this is all just a lot of puffery, a whole lot of chest-pounding, which they seem to be really, really good at. But when you scratch below the surface, just a little bit, there is no depth, there is nothing there.

And, clearly, the former House Speaker, Mr. Gingrich, the warrior, arguably the architect of the so-called Republican revolution, he has had a few things to say, as we talked about our 30-something hours on this. As recently as July 14th, which was 4 days ago, this was him commenting on the broken system in Washington.

He said, Congress really has to think about how fundamentally wrong the current system is.

When facing crises at home and abroad, he said, it is important to have an informed, independent legislative branch coming to grips with this reality and not sitting around and waiting for Presidential leadership.

Clearly when it comes to border security and immigration, there hasn't been a whole lot of Presidential leadership, not when it comes to action. He has been real good at talking.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Can you tell me what his solution to the crisis that this country is now facing in terms of its democratic institutions and its relationship between a White House that has acquired incredible power and a Congress that continues to see power to the point where it has become a rubber stamp for a President that has no restraints whatsoever? What does Newt Gingrich say is that solution?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is what has been truly unbelievable. This leadership, our Republican colleagues, have just been totally willing to cede power, just give up the legislative authority that we have, and say, Mr. President, you take it, we are out.

So Mr. Gingrich had something else to say just the other day. He said the correct answer is for the American people to just start firing people.

I don't think he was talking about anything other than this fall during the elections, because they are not, they are clearly, they clearly do not have their priorities straight. They clearly only speak words and don't back them up with action. They clearly only bob their heads up and down like the bobble-head Republicans that they have been and rubber-stamp everything that the President asks them to do.

There it is right there. There is the big old Republican rubber stamp which each of them has essentially wrapped their arms around and agreed to adhere to.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Well, I would suggest that that is a remarkable statement by an individual who led the Republican Party to a majority in this House.

When he says it is time for the American people to start firing everyone, that is to me a demonstration that he recognizes that the government is not functioning as it ought to function. We are allowing this institution, this House, to wither.

Government isn't withering; it is not government, it is Congress that is allowing democracy to wither. That is dangerous.

Unless you have a Congress that stands up and says no, and serves as a

true check and balance, then you have a democracy that is at risk.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. DELAHUNT, I can't help but grab this rubber stamp and help the Members realize that they are making history in all the wrong ways. This rubber-stamp Republican majority has allowed this President to have free rein, not only on everyday American workers, retirees, veterans and the American taxpayer dollars, this President rubber stamped, okayed by this Republican majority, has borrowed \$1.05 trillion from foreign nations. At no other time in the history of this Republic, in 4 years or in 224 years, has that amount of money been borrowed.

The Republican rubber-stamp Congress has allowed that to happen.

Now we have OPEC countries, Japan, China, Korea, Caribbean, Germany, you name it. They are borrowing. Canada, they are buying our debt. We are borrowing from them. The Republican majority allowed the Bush White House to get what they want as it relates to a rubber stamp.

Like I said, it is not even fair. I mean, Time magazine, freshly minted, the 17th edition, folks can either get it in the mail or buy it, I don't have any stock in Time Warner or anything.

□ 2350

This is where we are because this time right now, when the President and the 109th Congress is history making, not history making being the Congress that did so much for the American people but the Congress that allows the President of the United States to get this country in a position that it is in because the checks and balances that are in the Constitution and how we are supposed to govern and carry out oversight was not adhered to.

Here it is, Time magazine, The End of Cowboy Democracy, what Korea, Iraq and Iran teaches us about the limits of going it alone. And then you go on to page 20, and it talks about how the White House has just now realized that they have a problem.

Now, it would be okay if it was just the White House, and this is not about the President. The President is the President of the United States. He is not running again for reelection, but Members of the House have to run every 2 years, every 6 years in the Senate.

It goes on and it outlines quotes from people that were formerly in the administration, folks that are in the administration now, and they are saying now they realize that they have a problem. Well, it is not them. It is the United States of America. You heard Mr. DELAHUNT talking about the people in the U.K. Guess what, the people in the U.K. have bought \$223.2 billion of our debt. This is what they think about us. Leave alone that. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ talked about what the American people think about us.

So the alternative, in my opinion, is that we have plans on this side that is

being not only demagogued by the Republican majority but not even allowed to come to the floor. HouseDemocrats.gov, okay, energizing America, farmers fueling our energy independence. Here is a little short piece on it, bigger plan.

Real Security, on the Web site once again, ready to go, will not be heard here on the House. Republican majority does not want to hear it because they feel they have the master plan and that everything is in line. You heard Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ talk about enforcement of illegal workers under the Bush administration, the funding of border agents. The facts are the facts.

The Innovation Agenda, CEOs of American companies are saying we are ready to have math and science teachers; we are ready to work on real innovation in turning out the next workforce that we need. Republican majority talks about it but has not acted on it.

So I think it is important that we continue to share this with the American people. It may be repetitive. We may have to use Mr. Gingrich quotes. We may have to use Time magazine and other national publications and periodicals to drive the point home. It does not matter what your party affiliation is. It should not matter who you voted for in the last election.

What should matter is that you are a citizen of the United States of America and you care about this country. So when your children and grandchildren ask the question, Mama, Granddaddy, Aunt, Uncle, what were you doing when all this was going on; were you just saying I am a Republican and I am voting Republican because I am a Republican? Were you saying I am a Democrat, I was voting for the person that ran the most commercials and sent me stuff through the mail and saying that I am the best? Oh, or I am an Independent, and you know, I just thought it was probably politically correct and cool for me to vote for the people that were in the majority so I can hopefully be on the prevailing side?

One thing I can say is now the American people are saying they would much rather have a Democratic Congress, probably not because that they feel now I am so-called a Democrat. No, they see what is going on. They see the minimum wage not going up. They see the prices going up at the pump. They see what other countries are saying about us, and they see the lack of oversight and enforcement by this Congress.

This Congress, the Republican majority would much rather get an invitation to the White House and have dinner and tea and cookies to be at a party of 200 people than to provide representation on behalf of the American people.

Mr. DELAHUNT. You know what, it is time for Congress to stand up and insist on answers to hard questions.

Let me go back to Iraq for one moment. I heard a rumor that the Iraqi

prime minister intends to come to Washington soon. I think we all deserve an answer to a question that was raised by one of our leaders in the Democratic Party, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, who circulated a Dear Colleague today.

Maybe you have not heard this yet, but the Iraqi prime minister, where we have spent close to half a trillion dollars and 2,600 Americans have died, the head of their parliament, Mahmoud al-Mashhadani said these offensive words. He "accused 'Jews' of financing acts of violence in Iraq in order to discredit Islamists who control the parliament and government so they can install their 'agents' in power."

These are his words: "Some people say 'we saw you beheading, kidnappings and killing. In the end we even started kidnapping women who are our honor.' These acts are not the work of Iraqis. I am sure that he who does this is a Jew and the son of a Jew. I can tell you about these Jewish, Israelis and Zionists who are using Iraqi money and oil to frustrate the Islamic movement in Iraq and come with the agent and cheap project."

This is what my friend from Iowa was earlier talking about democracy? What kind of democracy would tolerate and countenance that kind of virulent, anti-Semitic remark from the Speaker of the parliament? The same Iraqi government that has a bilateral military agreement with Iran. Does this say something about the policy of this administration that has enhanced the power and influence of Iran in the region, Iran by the way, who is the sponsor of Hamas and Hezbollah and we know and the whole world knows what is happening today in Lebanon and the Gaza strip?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. So, instead of changing course and moving us in a new direction, the Republicans want to continue to go in the direction that we are continuing, that Americans are so frustrated with.

This very week they are going to focus on the politics of distraction because, as we shine a light on what is really going on, then the American people would become even more frustrated than they already are.

Mr. Speaker, all of our charts in the 30 Something Working Group and the things we discussed tonight will be up on our Web site. People can log on to www.HouseDemocrats.gov/ 30Something. We encourage the Members to take a look at all the things we have got up there, and I yield back to Mr. MEEK to close us out.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much. I would like to thank Mr. DELAHUNT also and all the Members of the 30 Something Working Group for coming together with an outstanding presentation tonight for the Members of the House.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Where was Mr. RYAN this evening?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I do not know. We need to see what happened to Mr. RYAN tonight, but I am pretty sure

there is a good excuse for him not being here.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ talked about a new direction for America. We want to make sure that health care is more affordable for all Americans, and we also want to make sure that we have lower gas prices, helping our working families, also cutting college costs and ensuring dignity in retirement and also requiring fiscal responsibility, pay-as-we-go.

With that, Mr. Speaker, we would like to thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us to have the time, and it was an honor to address the House tonight.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. NORTHUP (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HERSETH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BISHOP of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CLAY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and July 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, July 19.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today and July 18 and 20.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today and July 18.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and July 18 and 19.

Mr. GILCREST, for 5 minutes, today and July 19.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3525. An act to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction, to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2872. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 655. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Tuesday, July 18, 2006, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8562. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Nunn-McCurdy Unit Cost has breached the "Original" Acquisition Program Baseline (APB) for the enclosed programs, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433(e)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8563. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the budgeting of the Department of Defense for the sustainment of key military equipment, pursuant to Public Law 109-163, section 361; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8564. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the sixteenth annual report on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637 note, Public Law 100-583, section 8 (102 Stat. 2969); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8565. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Ninety-Second Annual Report of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System covering operations during